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*All-India Farmers' Convention.*

* 2684 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras Government have sent any delegates to the All-India Farmers' Convention held at New Delhi on 3rd April 1955;

(*b*) if so, how many and from which districts;

(*c*) whether any travelling allowance was paid to them?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Twenty-seven non-official delegates were selected and they happen to belong to the following districts :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Ramanathapuram ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Tirunelveli ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Salem ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Chingleput ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Tanjore ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Coimbatore ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Tiruchirappalli ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| South Arcot ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Malabar ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Madurai ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| | 27 |

In addition two official delegates were sent. They were the Block Development Officers of Gandhigram and Tiruppur.

(*c*) The cost of journey by train by the second-class from their places of residence to Delhi and back was borne by the Farmers' Forum, India, in the case of the non-official delegates. As regards the two official delegates, the travelling allowance according to the Madras Travelling Allowances Rules was met by this State.

*Delegates to the All-India Agriculturists' Conference*

* 2685 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of delegates from this State that attended the recent All-India Agriculturists' Conference at Delhi; and

(*b*) how they were selected?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Seventeen non-officials and two official delegates selected by this Government attended the Conference.

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(*b*) The delegates were selected from among the following broad categories suggested by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research :—

1. International Farm Youth Exchange Boys who have made a trip to U.S.A. under I.F.Y.E. Programme.

2. Progressive Farmers from Community Projects and the National Extension Blocks.

3. Practical farmers from non-project areas.

4. Farm women engaged in farming.

5. Selected Project Officers.

6. Farmers who attended the Conference of State Ministers held at Srinagar in July 1954.

It was stipulated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research that while selecting delegates for categories 2 and 3 preference should be given to Krishi Pandits and First Prize Winners of State Crop and Cattle Competitions, if they are not already included in the list of farmers who attended the Srinagar Conference.

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put a supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER : If I allow supplementary questions, then we will have to extend the time once again. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to see that no supplementary questions are put.

*Age-limit for admission to Engineering Colleges*

* 2686 *Q.*—A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the age-limit for admission in the Engineering Colleges in the State;

(*b*) the age-limit fixed for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ; and

(*c*) the number of candidates who were denied seats on account of over-age in the Engineering College in 1954?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) & (*b*) The maximum age-limit for all classes of candidates was 22 till the end of the academic year 1954–55. The age-limit has since been raised to 24 from the year 1955–56 in respect of Scheduled Castes.

(*c*) Three.